VILNIUS, June 9 (Reuter) - The United Nations is to fund Lithuania's ill-equipped police force to help them fight drug smuggling gangs who are increasingly using the country as a gateway to Western Europe. Lithuania's cash-strapped police force will receive $540,000 from the U.N. International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to improve its drug enforcement capability, a U.N. official said.

``Lithuania is clearly being targeted by drug smugglers as an East-West gateway," United Nations Development Programme spokesman Remigijus Tranas told Reuters on Thursday. ``The geographic location of Lithuania and its relatively good transport infrastructure make the country an attractive transit channel to Western Europe and the Nordic Countries," a recent UNDCP report said.

Though no major arrests have been made in the Baltic country, the UNDCP said drug seizures were on the rise. Lithuania has well-established trade links with cannabis-growing and heroin producing countries in central and southwest Asia, the UNDCP said.

GMS MOBILE TELEPHONES PURCHASED BY THOUSAND USERS

VILNIUS, June 8, ELTA - OMNITEL Co. installing the GSM communication network in Lithuania has already one thousand clients. The thousandth client was announced on Wednesday to be well-known businessmen in Lithuania Benas Gudelis.

OMNITEL - the Joint Lithuanian-US Venture got permission to establish and maintain the first digital GSM network of mobile communications in October of 1994. Officially, the GSM system is in operation from March 16, 1995.

At present the mobile GSM telephone communication is in operation only in Vilnius, Kaunas and along the highway between these cities. But the operation is planned to be expanded to all five largest cities of Lithuania by the end of this summer.